US005741167A

United States Patent [19]

Hagerty

[11] Patent Number: 5,741,167

[45] Date of Patent: Apr. 21, 1998

[54] **REMOTELY CONTROLLABLE SIGNAL GENERATING PLATFORM**

[75] Inventor: **James D. Hagerty**, Tiverton, R.I.

[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy**, Washington, D.C.

[21] Appl. No.: **550,038**

[22] Filed: **Oct. 30, 1995**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **B63B 21/52**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **441/13**; 441/19

[58] **Field of Search** 441/1, 6, 11, 13, 441/16, 18, 19, 20; 114/264, 265, 266, 267

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,961,259	6/1976	Elstow et al.	441/19
5,339,288	8/1994	Blier et al.	441/11

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

2431411	1/1975	Germany	441/19

Primary Examiner—Stephen Avila

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Michael J. McGowan; James M. Kasischke; Prithvi C. Lall

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A remotely controllable signal device, such as a buoy which may be used as a target for gunfire training includes platform, a radio receiver, a decoding device, and one or more visual location signaling devices. The platform is floatable in the case of a buoy. The visual location signaling devices provide a visual indication of the location of the device. The visual location signaling devices include smoke generating devices such as marine smoke canisters, and a light such as a strobe light. The light can be mounted on a short tower for higher visibility. The decoding device can be a dual-tone multiple frequency decoder, and can include a switching device which selectively activates one of a number of visual location signaling devices located on the platform. The radio receiver may be a UHF AM receiver. The platform can also include a Global Positioning System transceiver device to assist in tracking the platform in the open ocean. As another option, the platform can include a sonar pinger to allow acoustic tracking of the impacts of shells when implemented as a buoy on instrumented hydrophone tracking ranges.

18 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets